UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS EL PASO DIVISION

IN RE:) CASE NO: 21-30071-HCM) CHAPTER 11
THE GATEWAY VENTURES, LLC,) El Paso, Texas
Debtor.) Thursday, March 10, 2022
Dedici.) 10:42 a.m. to 11:28 a.m.

HEARING RE:

SECOND EMERGENCY MOTION SECOND MOTION TO ENFORCE THE CHAPTER 11
PLAN, AND AWARD OTHER MISCELLANEOUS RELIEF
(DOC #231, 245, 246 AND 278)
[DKT.NO.282]

BEFORE THE HONORABLE H. CHRISTOPHER MOTT,
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

APPEARANCES: See page 2

Court Recorder [ECRO]: Bobby Yarbrough

Transcribed by: Exceptional Reporting Services, Inc.

P.O. Box 8365

Corpus Christi, TX 78468

361 949-2988

Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording; transcript produced by transcription service.

Very good.

```
1
              MR. CARRUTH: Your Honor, I should mention that --
 2
    I'm sorry. I should mention that Mr. Dickson is on the line
 3
    also.
              THE COURT:
                                I see Mr. Dickson on WebEx and I
 4
                         Yes.
 5
    see Mr. Makani, I believe, on WebEx as well.
 6
              All right. Any other counsel want to appear? Very
 7
    good.
              All right. So, Mr. Carruth, let me ask you a few
 8
 9
    questions here so I make sure I've got this situation -- at
10
    least the basics right. So has the reorganized Debtor
11
    delivered the deed to Lot 7 to the Westar Group?
12
              MR. CARRUTH: Yes, Your Honor. We have delivered it.
13
    It has been recorded and to my knowledge, that is an issue in
14
    today's motion.
15
              THE COURT: All right. I just wanted to get some
16
    fundamentals here. And so when was that done?
17
              MR. CARRUTH: Your Honor, that was recorded the day
18
    of -- plus or minus one day of the last hearing. Mr. Nevarez
19
    disputed the form of the deed. So a week or two after that, we
20
    recorded a subsequent deed that matched the exhibit that was a
21
    part of the plan. And so that -- I don't know the exact date.
22
    I can get that as we progress but that corrected and
23
    superseding deed was recorded I would say three or four weeks
24
    ago. I don't know the exact date.
25
              THE COURT:
                          Okay, all right.
```

next but -- if the Court would like but that would be the

25

and a closing is expected on either of those lots in the next 30 to 45 days.

And then the third option is actually what was written into the plan and what the basis of the borrowing is under the plan which would be the note and guaranty and the other remedies that are provided and were negotiated for as part of the plan.

And short of the slow and steady progress that the Debtor has made, I was hoping I would hear that. The remedies for us are written into the plan and those are the remedies in addition to whether a motion practice and process on this side are unnecessary and contrary to the plan but we have the remedies of the providers.

But with that being said, I -- and Mr. Dickson could elaborate if necessary but I do believe that we are -- we're convinced that by March 7th and the 8th, we are very close to having the hundred thousand dollars issue resolved.

THE COURT: Yeah, and so part of this is what does "very close" mean?

MR. CARRUTH: Yes, Your Honor. I understand and I -Mr. Dickson has indicated to me that the -- he has secured some
supplemental financing and that is supposed to fund within a
matter of two or three days, possibly even today. We're
waiting on a return call. That has freed up and has been in
the works now is in process because the judgment lien of

```
9
 1
    Noorani is now released.
 2
              THE COURT: So what remedy --
 3
              MR. CARRUTH: So --
 4
              THE COURT: Go ahead, sir.
 5
              MR. CARRUTH:
                            I'm sorry.
              THE COURT: Go ahead.
 6
 7
              MR. CARRUTH: But short of that, we do have property
 8
    sales that are forthcoming and will take 30 to 45 days to close
 9
    possibly -- hopefully sooner but that's what's in the works
10
    now.
11
              THE COURT: So what remedy are you saying that the
12
    plan provides?
13
              MR. CARRUTH: The plan provided that Gateway and
14
    Mr. Dickson would execute a note and a quaranty and then if
15
    there was a default with respect to those items, that there
16
    would be a confession of judgment written into one of those
17
    documents. And I've gone back and looked a couple of times.
18
              The last time I received even a draft of those
19
    documents was probably a day -- well, not probably but was a
20
    day or two prior to the -- that Thursday status conference that
21
    we had in El Paso. I believe it was October the 13th.
22
    since confirmation and since the plan occurred, I've not
23
    received the note, quaranty and confession of judgment document
24
    that were contemplated by the plan.
25
```

So -- but that is the remedy that was included in the

```
plan and that would be the additional language that was written in as a result of the October 13 -- I believe it was the October 13th status conference. And I will get section reference for you momentarily.

(Pause)

And I'm almost there, Your Honor. So that would be
```

And I'm almost there, Your Honor. So that would be Section 5.8.2(6) -- no, I'm sorry -- (4) of the plan which is the actual -- and, here, I'll just -- let me share the screen.

So on -- in -- and actually in the Confirmation Order which is Docket 246 which you put as Docket 245 as an exhibit and our hundred-thousand-dollar paragraph includes a confession of judgment. I guess we did vote out the note and deed of -- or the note and -- there was just -- there was going to be a confession of judgment to Westar which they could enforce if not -- if the cash wasn't paid within 35 days.

THE COURT: And so are you saying you have or you have not gotten the Confession of Judgment document?

MR. CARRUTH: I have not received, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Nevarez?

MR. NEVAREZ: Yes, Your Honor. I'm not sure that the remedies that are listed by Mr. Carruth are acceptable. Number one, we have -- the Debtor has already violated three orders of this Court, the final order assuming the plan -- then there was the plan itself, the contribution of it and then there was also the first motion to enforce the plan that has been violated. I

3

4

5

6

7

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 don't know that the paperwork is going to do any good as far as my motion suggests additional remedies.

The first two remedies that Mr. Carruth suggests involve additional time, additional delay and will probably result in a fourth violation of Court orders. I think we realize that their promises regarding the hundred thousand are routinely broken.

Number three, the remedy that is authored by Mr. Carruth is really confined to additional motion practice because it's just additional paperwork. We have an order. We don't need a stipulation, a confession of judgment. We don't need an additional note. We don't need a guaranty. We have three orders that have been violated already.

What we would like to see done is what I request in my motion and that's to stop all payments from the Debtor -the reorganized Debtor to the attorneys of record including Mr. Carruth, stop all intercompany transfers to PDG Prestige, all -- stop all intercompany transfers to Prestige Star. don't know why those intercompany transfers are even being made.

Why is money going out of the reorganized Debtor's estate to the affiliates of the reorganized Debtor? That just makes no sense. The money should be kept within the reorganized Debtor's estate so that the execution of the plan including payment of the hundred thousand can be accomplished.

So I think all they're suggesting in Mr. Carruth's proposal is just additional delay and they don't seem to trigger what we need is going to pay them for the hundred thousand dollars.

As I pointed out in my motion, a lot of the money that's going to affiliates is winding up in Mr. Dickson's pockets and are being spent on items which on their face appear not to be related to any business purpose in accomplishing the plan. We're talking about bar tabs, restaurant tabs, all kinds of things that are frivolous, nonbusiness expense.

And I should mention that since we are a partner of the Gateway Ventures, there are potential tax implications that we are concerned about because of the -- what seems to be diversion to affiliates for purposes that do not seem to be business-related. And so we're -- that's not a concern that we have.

So we would encourage the Court to decide if the (indisc.) is ceasing all payments to the attorneys of record, the affiliate PDG Prestige, the affiliate Prestige Star and we would also request that those monthly reports that are missing be filed by the Debtor. I'm not sure why they're not being filed but according to my -- according to the proposed order, that includes the August monthly report, October, November, December, January and now we can add the February monthly operating report that has not been submitted.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

to that.

I don't know why that -- the Debtor -- the reorganized Debtor isn't -- thinks that that is not important. So -- but it -- the reports that have been submitted show that there's a lot in intercompany transfers that could have been -instead of being paid to the affiliates, could have been paid to the Westar Group for payment in regards with the three outstanding orders that have been violated. I have nothing further, Your Honor. THE COURT: So, Mr. Carruth, what's your position on these -- what Mr. Nevarez is calling "intercompany transfers"? MR. CARRUTH: Your Honor, I'm not sure of the -- of each line item. I know that we have G&A line item in our two cash collateral budgets but my understanding is that the payments on -- for site improvements primarily were substantial. For example, the ramp that was discussed during the confirmation hearing, that ramp is a -- it has been built, utilities have been installed on the location since the hearing and then in terms of the party payments, I can -- I have not been paid near what Mr. Nevarez thinks I've been paid. I did go back and look. One operating report that says I'd been paid, 179. I've certainly not been paid 179 by the Debtor. But if the request is to cease those payments, that's a -- any transfers -- I guess I've got two or three responses

One would be the reorganized Debtor is entitled to

```
15
 1
    doing.
 2
              THE COURT: Mr. Nevarez, these transfers that you're
 3
    talking about --
 4
              MR. SPEAKER: Did they did this?
 5
              THE COURT: Mr. Nevarez, the transfers that you're
 6
    talking about --
 7
              MR. NEVAREZ: Yes, sir.
              MR. SPEAKER: Any transfers the right --
 8
 9
              THE COURT: I'm sorry. Who's speaking?
              MR. CARRUTH: That sounds like Mr. Dickson.
10
11
              THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Dickson, that's fine if you
12
    want to say something. I just need to know who's speaking.
13
              MR. NEVAREZ: I guess not, Your Honor. Did Your
14
    Honor have a question for me?
15
              THE COURT: Yes. So these transfers you're talking
16
    about, I'm just going to call them "intercompany transfers"
17
    just to kind of generically describe them. So when are you
18
    saying that occurred?
19
              MR. NEVAREZ: Oh, it's occurred -- well, it's hard to
20
    say when but I have as exhibits -- if Your Honor might allow me
21
    to share the screen --
22
              THE COURT: That's fine.
23
         (Pause)
24
              MR. NEVAREZ: Okay. On the screen the monthly
25
    reports, these are PDG working reports.
                                             If I may refer Your
```

- 1 Honor to the right-hand item, the monthly report, Docket Number
- 2 282-6. That's a PDG monthly report in case -- it was filed in
- 3 21-371 in this court.
- 4 There's just all kinds of -- I'll just take, for
- 5 example, the first highlighted Item 1103, November champagne
- 6 tab, \$1,634. There's Coconuts Bar & Grill on 11/4, Village Inn
- 7 Pancakes, the Kinective Fitness Club, Corralito Steak House
- 8 multiple times. Mr. Dickson has good taste -- but the Flix
- 9 Brewhouse -- it just goes on and on. They are just all -- you
- 10 can look at reports that are filed by PDG reflect that a lot of
- 11 payments are being made to what appear to be lately non-
- 12 business-related expenses.
- 13 Again, where -- as a co-venture partner with PDG,
- 14 | there are tax implications resulting from such expenditures and
- 15 they go on and on. All those monthly reports that are filed by
- 16 PDG were made exhibits. And I should mention that PDG also was
- 17 delinquent in filing their monthly operating reports in that
- 18 | case. So that's what I've got to put a stop to at least until
- 19 | the hundred thousand dollars gets paid.
- 20 **THE COURT:** Yeah. I mean, I understand -- and I'll
- 21 hear from you in just a minute, Mr. Dickson. Thank you because
- 22 I would like to hear from you.
- 23 In -- I mean -- but I understand your concern,
- 24 Mr. Nevarez. I do. The one thing you've been saying that I'm
- 25 | not following is this -- how to put it -- that Mr. -- I guess

it would be Westar technically -- is still an equity holder

because that's not what the plan says. The plan basically says

when that Lot 7 is conveyed that the unit that Westar owned go

back to the Debtor. And so Lot 7 has been conveyed.

I'm not trying to downplay your other conc

I'm not trying to downplay your other concerns but, I mean, I don't think -- it doesn't look like to me your clients are still equity holders of this reorganized entity but let's just set that aside for a minute.

But, Mr. Dickson, go ahead.

MR. DICKSON: Good morning, Your Honor. Good morning, gentlemen. I guess the first thing that's kind of jumping off the page at me is Mr. Nevarez was constantly quoting expenses from PDG Prestige when this is the Gateway Ventures case and has nothing to do with PDG Prestige. And then the money -- the quarterly reports for the Gateway Ventures -- I'm looking here at reports completed and done through the end of January for Gateway Ventures that have not been filed. And that's completely -- I'm unaware of that. This is the first I've heard of it.

That initially, sir, in the last hearing, you made the same allegations that we were spending money to pay attorneys and other things like that. And this Court ordered that we not do any more -- pay any more -- Debtor pay any more money until this hundred thousand dollars is taken care of which, as you can tell, the property has been sitting since

- 1 | that hearing with no progress. No payments have been made on
- 2 | behalf of the company by any entity, Michael Dickson
- 3 personally, any entity whatsoever by Court order as we agreed
- 4 to do.
- 5 We did get the -- that at the title company cleaned
- 6 | up finally so we could start conveying properties. I have two
- 7 properties in escrow as I speak right now. I have a line of
- 8 credit that finally now is going to get put through in moment,
- 9 probably this afternoon. I'm expecting a phone call by 11:30
- 10 | Mountain Standard Time on the timing of that but this simply
- 11 | that we're -- we -- I mean, it isn't -- trust me. We don't
- 12 | want to -- we want to be done with Westar Ventures as much as
- 13 they want to be done with us in its entirety.
- So we would like to pay the hundred thousand dollars
- 15 as fast as possible. I just -- we gave permission to the --
- 16 | that if it has not happened, it needs to do so. And -- but
- 17 | we're making lots of progress. We're trying -- I'm trying very
- 18 | hard to get this cleaned up as fast as possible. And I do
- 19 apologize that it hasn't happened in the timely manner that we
- 20 | had agreed to originally. There are things that we just didn't
- 21 account for coming up. That's
- 22 | -- that is my responsibility and I'll own it.
- But I assure you, Mr. Nevarez, Mr. Makani, Mr. Davis,
- 24 Mr. Kumar and Mr. Mott that I will have this taken care of as
- 25 | fast as possible, that I will have this taken care of. That

```
1 was looking at the whole thing. Thank you.
```

THE COURT: So, Mr. Dickson, let me make sure I followed the first part of what you said. So when Mr. Nevarez kind of, I'll say, popped up on the screen some payments that look like, yeah, whatever, Flix Brewhouse and -- you're saying that wasn't out of Gateway Ventures' account?

MR. DICKSON: No, sir. That's out of PDG Prestige account. So he showed me the MOR. I don't know if he's doing that annually or if he's to misrepresent something to the Court. I can't make that distinction.

THE COURT: Well, I'm not interested in getting in -- calling people misrepresenting things. I'm just trying to figure out what bank account we're talking about.

MR. DICKSON: It's PDG Prestige. It's the other entity. Gateway Ventures doesn't have a debit card, doesn't have a credit card, doesn't have anything to put those charges on. When they tie in 5229, it is PDG Prestige, Incorporated.

MR. NEVAREZ: Your Honor, if I might respond?

THE COURT: Yes, go ahead, Mr. Nevarez.

MR. NEVAREZ: Yes, Your Honor. The PDG Prestige monthly operating reports were put on there because the money was coming from -- was going to PDG Prestige in large part coming from the reorganized Debtor here Gateway Ventures.

MR. DICKSON: No, it's not.

MR. NEVAREZ: So -- well, as I note on Page --

```
1
    Paragraph 49, Page 7, it's my second motion and the fourth
 2
    Document 282. In just those -- in four of the -- well, the
    operating reports -- it shows that $89,000 went to PDG Prestige
 3
    from the Gateway Ventures account when that money could have
 4
 5
    gone to pay the hundred thousand that's owed and that's -- and
    we're still missing the monthly operating reports for the
 6
 7
    Debtor -- reorganized Debtor here that I mentioned, the August,
 8
    the October, the September, November, December, January,
    February -- they still have not been filed.
10
              I don't know why Mr. Dickson is not aware of that and
11
    I'm not sure why they haven't been filed but they haven't been
12
    filed. So there might be some additional substantial amounts
13
    going from the reorganized Debtor to its affiliates. Why money
14
    is going today to Prestige Star during the period ending
15
    September 30? They received $313,554. Why is that going to
16
    the affiliate when it could have been used to pay the hundred
17
    thousand?
18
              And let me just respond regarding the equity interest
19
    of the Debtor. As we discussed earlier in this hearing, we did
20
    receive a special warranty deed. We did receive an amended,
21
    corrected special warranty deed. I'm looking at it.
22
    looking at a title report that we just recently received this
23
    past week from Sierra Title analyzing the restrictions on Lot 7
```

So I'm not sure why we were given a special warranty

and there's abundant descriptions.

24

25

1 deed and a corrected warranty deed that could end up costing my 2 client clear title but that's problematic. I'm trying to 3 continue my review of the Sierra Title -- preliminary title report that I received just a couple days ago. And I want to 4 5 talk to my clients but it appears that the special warranty deed had restrictions that -- as well as an imposition of taxes 6 7 for this year and last year which should not have been which restricts the conveyance of clear title and we were dumped with a lot of taxes, it appears. 10 I want to look to see whether it was filed by the 11 City in the withdrawal of a claim, the amount of the impacts or 12 the conveyance but not only was a special warranty deed that we 13 received from the reorganized Debtor both in taxes but the 14 amended special warranty deed that was received thereafter 15 imposed some additional restrictions. 16 So I'm not sure the mere conveyance of a deed to my 17 client relieves the Debtor -- reorganized Debtor of its 18 obligation to provide clear title because what we seem to be 19 getting is just a deed that has all kinds of restrictions and 20 encumbrances that were dumped on my client. I'm still 21 analyzing it and as I said, I'm going to talk to the tax people 22 and I want to run this by Mr. Carruth off the record but that's 23 our concern. 24 THE COURT: All right. Does anybody have anything 25

else?

```
1 2020057615, Official County Records of El Paso County, Texas.
```

There's no deed restriction that I see on this. As far as the ad valorem and real estate taxes, grantee is hereby assumes the liability for the ad valorem taxes, all assessments for the current year 2022 and all subsequent years probated at the time of closing.

THE COURT: Yeah. Okay. Well, I'm not --

MR. DIXON: I don't see any other -- I'm sorry. I don't see any restrictions in this deed.

THE COURT: All right. This Judge Mott. I've heard enough. So, yeah, I'm not happy about the situation and it sounds like nobody is happy about the situation. So we're all unhappy.

What I'm going to do -- I'm going to deny the second motion that you filed, Mr. Nevarez. And the way that I see it -- and I'm going to do it without prejudice to -- I mean, you have two remedies the way that I see it. And one remedy is the remedy that's in the plan, 5.8.2(4), which is a confession of judgment against Mr. Dickson and Gateway Ventures. And if you want to prepare that and send it to Mr. Carruth and Mr. Dickson and if they don't sign that and you want to file a motion to enforce that part of the plan, then I'll take it up. So that's one remedy you've got.

Bankruptcy Code gives you. And so, yeah, Section 1112(b)(2),

The other remedy you have is the remedy the

- you may have cause to convert the case to Chapter 7 for violation of Court orders, for material default under the plan,
- 3 for not filing post-confirmation operating reports. And I'm
- 4 not saying there is but I'm just saying there's a remedy in the

On a motion to convert the case to Chapter 7, I'd

5 Bankruptcy Code.

6

- 7 think about that carefully before I filed it just because if 8 you file something like that, whatever buyers there might be on
- 9 the lots and whatever financing might be -- that would be
- 10 coming to pay your client, that may go away. And so I think
- 11 | you've got the right to do it. I don't know if it's the smart
- 12 thing to do. And if the case ended up in Chapter 7, then your
- 13 | client has got a lot in a development that's in debt that's not
- operating. So I don't know that that makes sense to your
- 15 client but it's a remedy.
- And, I mean, I hope we don't have to get to either of
- 17 | those two things but that sort of appears to me -- I mean, I
- have entered an order requiring the reorganized Debtor to pay
- 19 | the hundred thousand by -- I think it was January 31 and they
- 20 haven't complied with it. Okay.
- I can't throw somebody in jail for not paying money
- 22 | but you've got -- yeah, there's a remedy in the plan and
- 23 there's a remedy in the Bankruptcy Code. And if you don't get
- 24 | your money pretty darn soon and that's what you want to do,
- 25 | then that's what you should do is exercise one or both of those

```
25
1
    remedies.
2
               So that's going to be my ruling and I'll do an order
    on this motion. All right. Thank you, gentlemen. We'll be in
 3
 4
    recess until noon Mountain Time.
5
              MR. NEVAREZ: Thank you, Your Honor.
 6
          (This proceeding adjourned at 11:28 a.m.)
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
```

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

in / Julian

May 14, 2022

Signed

Dated

TONI HUDSON, TRANSCRIBER